

Dear FRS-Holland Friend!

It's almost Summer and here is #18 of the FRS Newsletter. Once again packed with news concentrating on SW. Thanks to all who renewed their subscription. Enjoy reading this Summer edition, hopefully conditions on SW will improve! Just for your information: we usually compile/produce 8 pages and then make a final choice which newsitems are being published in the FRS Newsletter.

FRS NEWSCORNER

So far FRS-Holland has been quite active in 1998. Following the February 22nd shows on 6242, FRS was also active in March and April. Sun March 22nd a joint European Music Radio/ FRS-Holland was aired on 6275 kHz. Conditions that day were rather poor and March 29th saw a complete repeat of the programming. FRS-Holland's programming consisted of two shows presented by Joop ter Zee ("The Short SW Parade") and Peter Verbruggen ("FRS Magazine"). Signals on the 29th were better than the previous week but still not very satisfactory. Already one week later on Sun April 5th FRS-Holland was heard again. Saturday April 4th the on site preparations started with the usual but vital antenna work. A new antenna had been constructed as it was the first time FRS would be on 51 metres with own equipment. The antenna was matched to 5815 and a second 41 mb antenna was erected as well. During the Sat afternoon & late Sat evening FRS tested on 5815 for about 120 minutes. Sun April 5th the tx was already switched on at 05.30 UTC (!) and at 07.52 UTC official programming commenced on 5815 & 7315. Pxs included shows like FRS Golden Show, FRS Magazine, The Short SW Parade and a 60 minute version of FRS Goes DX. At 12.30 UTC both txs were switched off. Without any doubt the 5815 outlet was doing very well with a solid signal in wide areas of the European continent as well as in the UK. 7315 (how long ago was it we used "good old" 7315??) was disappointing caused by some legal station on that frequency. Strange because we monitored 7315 for several weeks and during that period it was completely free and clear! Try 7315 now and you will draw the same conclusion...! Although we heavily advertised us being on 5815 instead of the usual 48 mb, the response on the broadcast was a bit disappointing knowing A) so much work had been put in all the preparations and B) the signal was good that day. May we conclude that most listeners still prefer 48 metres or simply do not tune in to 51 metres??? At the moment you will read this column (hopefully just before the 3rd June weekend) FRS-Holland is about to be broadcasting a 3rd Sun schedule on 6242 kHz June 21st. Although we are very well aware of the current poor conditions, we want to seize the opportunity to do this broadcast on the day the 1998 Summer starts. The good news is that after an absence of almost a year, the German Service returns on FRS-Holland. A deejay who once worked for FRS is back on the station.... Find out yourself by tuning in next Sunday on 6242 kHz/ 48 metres. By the way: Stefan Kramer has not left FRS, we hope he will return later this year. Here's the programme schedule for the upcoming Sunday:

UTC	Programme	CEST
07.52	Opening: Ids/ theme tune	09.52
08.02	FRS Magazine- Peter Verbruggen	10.02
	<i>music & information</i>	
08.45	German Show- ????	10.45
	<i>Alternative rockmusic from the FRS era</i>	
09.30	FRS Goes DX- Peter Verbruggen	11.30
	<i>the latest news from the wonderful world of radio</i>	
10.15	The Short SW Parade- Joop ter Zee	12.15
	<i>alternative music and more.....</i>	
12.00	Close Down	13.00

*During the shows we will mention the names of a six FRS listeners. That means: each presenter mentions in his show two names, one in the first part and one in the later part using the slogan: "Right now also.....(name listener)..... is listening to FRS-

Holland". This item is not part of the DX-Show!! Any of those six persons hearing his name on air in the above slogan, must send us a letter telling us at what time his name was mentioned. He can win himself a free radio cassette recording making a choice from the comprehensive FRS Sales Productions catalogue.

*FRS-Holland's website can now be found at

> www.gironet.nl/home/freak55/home.htm < . At the same time we have a new Email address which reads >freak55@gironet.nl< or >peter.verbruggen@tip.nl< . Postal address: POBox 2727 6049 ZG Herten / The Netherlands.

*The June 21st broadcast will most likely be the only regular FRS Summer 3rd Sun broadcast! FRS-Holland will then be back in September or October when we hope to celebrate our 18th birthday!! We will be carrying out a few late night/early morning broadcasts and these are aimed at New Zealand, North-America and perhaps the rest of the world. Info about dates/times will be given via the Internet on our website, via newsgroups and via our comprehensive SW addressbook! So if you are on the Internet and you want to subscribe, just send us an Email! It's totally free.

The upcoming period we will be working to complete a new jingle set containing German, Swedish (!) and English jingles. The new FRS-Holland logo is finished. We will present this professional logo in the late Summer, it will be used on new stickers and QSL cards, on our info-sheets and ofcourse on our stationery.

SW FREE RADIO SCENE

CONDITIONS/ GENERAL

In this edition we cover the news of the period mid March- mid June 1998 emphasizing on the developments in the past few weeks! Conditions on 48 metres have been very poor lately with hardly any positive exceptions! In particular May was ruled by appalling conditions. As a result quite a number of stations have taken a break, not taking the risk of wasting their time with programming which can only be heard in poor quality or cannot be heard at all in vast areas. It's no negativism but it's reality. When planning a broadcast, you are left to the tender mercies of propagation. It's simply a matter of making a guess unless you are putting out several hundred of watts (like the Farmers). Good news is that since UCB isn't heard on 6200 anymore, this frequency and also 6205 are once again free to use. As Summer is almost here, activities (QSO-ing) on 76 metres are increasing. Not to wonder knowing that conditions on 76 metres are getting better when Summer approaches. Several stations were noted on 76 metres in the past weeks including Union Radio, Dr. Tim, Radio Korak Int., Maxwell, Pacman, Laser Hot Hits, Fusion, Radio Roberto (Box 65, NL-7260 AB Ruurlo), Atlantis, Daiwa, Oscar, Shadowman, Meteor, Santana, WMR and Radio Black Power (P.O.Box 128, NL-9410 AC Beilen). Easter Sun saw a revival of some "oldies" taking part in the Free Radio Contest organized by SRS and PC. Well done chaps. Stations such as SOS Radio (> sos@radiolink.net <), RTI & PFBS popped up and all in all it was a very interesting day for SW FR DXers. SOS was weak despite using some 200W. It was a pity that Radio Mercury didn't take part for unknown reasons.

☐ Starting with non-SW news: Londn based **RADIO ARGUS** is testing every Wednesday 22.30-00.00 UTC on 1593 AM with rock mx format.

☐ **ATLANTIC MUSIC RADIO** seems to be a new station being heard on 6239 Easter Sun. No further info available.

☐ German **RADIO BENELUX** (1) was heard on 5810 kHz on Sun March 22nd. Signal-strength on the continent was very good. The show was presented by Jens Martin and started at 09.00 UTC. April 5th BNL was "sandwiched" between FRS-Holland on 5815 (FRS heavily promoted date and frequency prior to the broadcast) and Radio Free London on 5805 with their regular 1st Sun of the month broadcast. Result was that BNL was almost completely nullled out in large parts of Europe. A pity but Jens Martin should have known better... Regularly BNL is to be heard around 5810 with nice signals. The station is also active on 76 metres. Sun May 17th BNL returned on 41 metres 7469 kHz, signal-strength was good.

☐ **RADIO BRIGITTE** has announced that future broadcasts will take place on the 1st and 2nd Saturday and Sunday on the new frequency of 6520 kHz. In April/May Brigitte was also heard on



6398, 6473, 6223 & 6241. So don't think Brigitte will stick to 6520.... Address is Box 10, 7094 ZG Rouveen in Holland.

☐ Sat April 4th **RADIO BLUE STAR** tested on 11388 kHz and was heard with poor signals in Central Germany. Easter Saturday another test would be put out, but this time on 11400 kHz. As far as we know nothing was heard that day. However: there are reports about unids April 19th (11401) and 26th (11398 kHz). Perhaps Blue Star? Add= Box 1104, 8001 BC Zwolle, the Netherlands.

☐ **RADIO BORDERHUNTER** (Grensjager) was raided on Tuesday April 14th 1998 at 14.00 UTC from a special police team. The police-team had got their information via a fax sent by someone in Europe. According to the OP, this person (he knows who) did send a normal reception report with many curious questions about tx and transmitting site. On Easter Monday, one day before the raid, Borderhunter was active on 6285 kHz. Box 28 in Beerse (Belgium) has been closed, instead Box 44B-2387 Baarle-Hertog, Belgium is now open for any mail.

☐ **BRITAIN RADIO INT.** (4) was heard on 6236 March 22nd. Easter Sun April 13th BRI was active on 6236/7359 kHz. Signal quality was fine. In June BRI becomes 18 years old!! Possibly some special programming will be aired, hopefully conditions will be ok.

☐ It seems that a new French pirate station was active on Sunday, March 15th at 0900 CET for a first test. The station's name is **RADIO CAPUCINE** and the frequency was 5795 kHz. However, we have no confirmation this test really took place. We await further information. No address known.

☐ **RADIO CITY** (do not confuse this one with German City FM!) has been heard various times on 7355, 7445U and on 7490.

☐ **CRAZY WAVE RADIO**: it looks like that after the return of CWR March 1st, Chris Ise has concentrated on the SWRS (see elsewhere). Reports/comments by Email to: > crazywave@usa.net <.

☐ **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND** reports that its POBox 536 in Hoogeveen is no longer valid. For the time being RECH will be using the new POBox 663, 7900 AR in Hoogeveen. This POBox is also used by the VOTN. and a new station Alfa Lima International (AL Int.). April 4th after 21.00 UTC saw RECH on 3925 with a phone-in show.

☐ **EAST ROCK RADIO**, a German station was heard on 6244. Sun March 29th via the tx of Irish JRR. Usually signals from Ireland are not strong enough to have satisfactory results on the continent and this one was no no exception. The station played German rock.

☐ **RADIO EUROPE** from Italy can now be contacted through P.O.Box 12, 20090 Limito di Pioltello.

☐ **EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO** was carrying out a joint 24 hour broadcast with sister station FRS-Holland Sun March 22nd. As you can read in FRS Newscorner the complete programming was repeated on the 29th. Sun April 26th EMR was heard with the last of a series of monthly 4th Sun broadcasts on 6275 kHz. Conditions that day were very poor and it was arranged the broadcast would be repeated May 3rd. However, in the end the repeat was cancelled. E.M.R. will be back on 48 metres July 26th. Frequency could be 6190!! Tests on 31 metres have been taking place but these were A) not on weekdays and B) not announced. Hopefully future tests will be announced via the Internet. E.M.R. is hoping to have soon a brandnew and definitive Email address. At the moment the EMR crew is completing a new set of Int. jingles containing Spanish, Russian & Swedish ones. Hopefully Finnish & Italian jingles will be added within not too long. Andy Walker has quit EMR. Barry Stephens makes the following statement: "European Music Radio is a clean Free Radio station with no politics and no bad feelings towards any listeners or any country or anybody. It's there to provide a service of music, info and good radio. Not a station to run other people down. Not a station to have negative attitudes towards their own staff. EMR is a clean Free Radio station and will remain a clean Free Radio station." Address of EMR is Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten.

☐ Sun April 12th the **FARMERS FROM HOLLAND** were picked up from 1740-1810+ in Sydney, Australia!! May 24th mid afternoon the Farmers were heard testing on 5800! The station is to be heard each Sun on 6300 with live phone-ins. Address remains POBox 108 in 7200 AC Dalfsen, the Netherlands. Martin Sievers from Kiel has started up a website for the Farmers: >www.radiolink.net/farmers <.

☐ **RADIO 510 Int.** announced that the IRRS is now testing every Friday, Saturday and Sunday 20.00-22.00 UTC on 3955 which is a very clear channel. Various free radio programmes are aired during

the tests. Reports are very much appreciated. Email address of Radio 510 Int. is: >stevie@radio510.org <. **TEXAS TWISTER RADIO** is an All American station being relayed via Radio 510 International. The station runs a country format. Correct reception reports to: Texas Twister Radio, Elton Houck, P.O.Box 380567, Duncanville, Texas 75138, USA. E-mail: >EHouck1@aol.com <.

☐ **RADIO FREE LONDON** was on air all over the Easter weekend. Programming started Good Friday and lasted till Easter Monday. According to Andy Walker two new exciting projects are in the pipeline this summer, but only if some station staff can "Get their act together!" After a long absence, RFL returned on 51 metres 3920 kHz Sat/Sun June 13th/14th. RFL's new UK address is 101B, Kings Cross Road, London, WC1X9LP. Alternatively the Rueil Cedex address is still open (4). Any Email reports are welcomed at: > RFLSW@usa.net <. The RFL web site at: > http://193.63.162.100/gh/sw/RFL.htm <.

☐ **RADIO FUSION INTERNATIONAL** has a new Email address which is: > JollyJoke@usa.net

SW addresses SW addresses SW addresses SW addresses

1= P.O.Box 220342/D-42373 WUPPERTAL/ Germany

2= 14 Stone Row/ COLERAINE/ Co. Londonderry/ BT52 1EP/ Northern Ireland

4= P.O.Box 130/ 92504 RUEIL-CEDEX/ France

5= 12 Dorman Rd/ PRESTON/ Lancs PR2 6AS/ England

8= P.O.Box 293/ MERLIN/ Ontario N0P 1WO/ Canada

9= 34B Drift Road/ CLANFIELD/ Waterlooville/ Hants PO8 0JL/ United Kingdom

10= SRS/ Östra Porten 29/ 44254 YTTJERBY/ Sweden

☐ **RADIO GERONIMO** has planned tests on 7 & 9 MHz. Have an eye on 9355, 7400 and 7360 kHz. No add available.

☐ **IMPOSSIBLE RADIO** (10) made its debut trm on 6270 March 29th with a fair signal during the morning hours on the European continent. Anyone able to provide more info regarding this new station??

☐ **KIWI RADIO** from New Zealand planned a 5 minute voice test Sun May 16th at 08.00 UTC on 7475 KHz USB. Reception in Australia was loud and clear. Another test was planned on 7475 KHz USB at 08.00 UTC on Saturday May 23rd 1998. But apparently the antenna was malfunctioning, and the test called off, until Saturday May 30th at 08.00 on 7475 KHz USB.

Kiwi Radio ceased SW trms last year to start a new legal operation called **SOUNDWAVE FM**. This station has a new show hosted by Ian Brown of Whakatane's 1XX Radio, called "Remember When". Kiwi can be reached via P O Box 3103, Onekawa, Napier, New Zealand. Email: >kiwiradio@write.me.com <. Website: take a look at > www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/9885 <.

☐ **RADIO KORAK INT.** was heard with nightly broadcasts 3920 March 22nd and April 12th. The station provided the usual excellent signals. Modulation quality was also very good. Address is Box 134, 3780 BC Voorthuizen in the Netherlands.

☐ UK station **RADIO MAXWELL** returned to the airwaves over the Easter weekend with trms on 3947 kHz.

☐ **RADIO MIRAGE** was heard with a nice signal on 6275 in the early morning of Easter Sun. Address is (1).

☐ **RADIO NEW WORLD**, the joint project of Torenvalk & Tonair, was heard on 6260/9240 Easter Sun.. May 24th both stations carried out a joint marathon broadcast. Trms were commenced Fri evening at 21.00 UTC and closed dow was the following day at 23.00 UTC. Frequency was 9240 kHz Address is Box 94 in 7038 ZH Zeddam or Box 21, 7010 AA Gaanderen. Both adds are in the Netherlands.

☐ German's **RADIO NORDLIGHT** is back on the Internet: > http://members.aol.com/NordlichtR/radio/index.htm <.

☐ **RADIO NORDSEE** (10) was heard April 11th on 6210 with the usual good signal. Whit Sun May 31st Nordsee was on 6234 kHz.

☐ **RADIO OZONE** was heard testing on 5835 with an output of 165W March 22nd at 21.05. A week later the station tested on 6300 with "only" 32W. The test was carried out before the Dutch Farmers started broadcasting on their 6300 outlet. Ozone's signal on the continent was rather poor. April 5th saw the station on 5830 and Easter Sun on 5780. That same Sunday Ozone was also noted on 6185 which is a rather unusual frequency just outside the 6200



"limit". Sat May 9th Ozone tested on 6970 with fine signals. Plan is to put out the Sun morning programming on 6970 during the night of Sat to Sun. The station can be heard with weekly broadcasts including relays of BBMS which were noted on 6200 and 5830. In the mean time Ozone has also been active on 5800 (BBMS) & 5820. It would be a good idea for the station OP to look for permanent frequencies! Email address is: > BBMS2UNION@compuserve.com <. Snailmail: 55D Chester Rd, London N19 5DF in the UK.

▢ **RADIO PAMELA** switched from 6200 to the 51 mb. Sun April 5th & 12th Steve Midnight was noted on 5773 kHz, signal-quality was poor/fair on the continent. Eversince Pamela has been regularly on 51 metres replacing the 48 mb outlet. Last known address is Box 35, 6027 Romerswil in Switzerland.

▢ Since UCB has ceased trms on 6200, UK station **RADIO PANDORA** (10) can be regularly heard on this frequency. The station also relays fellow hobby pirates. Usually fair signals are heard on the continent.

▢ **RADIO PIONIER** from Rotterdam was logged on 76 metres following a long absence. Add is Box 2188 in NL 3000 CD Rotterdam.

▢ **RADIO PROJECT 1 INT.** is following Level One a "club" of various SW Free Radio stations. April 12th Easter Sun saw RP1 Int. on several freqs including 6206, 6234, 6245 and 6250. Next issue we have some more info on this project.

▢ **PRSQ** - "Pirate Radio Station with Quality" - is a brand new 48 metre broadcaster. The station plays FUNK and nothing but funk on the 48 mb. Public broadcasts will be frequent on Saturdays and Sundays from 10.00 UTC effective Saturday April 18th 1998. The station's presenting team are aiming at reaching funk-enthusiasts with quality AM transmissions throughout Europe on 48-metres every weekend. Reports can be forwarded to > prsq@hotmail.com <. A special PRSQ QSL will be presented to the first 10 verified listeners. Some technical info: input power is 200W, antenna is a multi threaded W array. First general public broadcast would take place on Saturday 18 April 10.00 UTC. As far as we know nothing was heard on the continent!

▢ **PIRATE FREAKS BROADCASTING SERVICE** was heard with an excellent signal on 6280 Easter Sun. Trms started on 6295 but that channel was soon left in favour of 6280. During the 7 hour live broadcast Pirate Andy received no less than 62 calls! Address remains Box 386, 5900 AJ Venlo, Netherlands.

Q-103 (10) is transmitting once per month Saturday afternoon. Sat. 16th May Q-103 was heard on 13963U. The station claims that all trms have been run from locations on the Western European continent (northern part of Luxemburg for instance). Scandinavian locations will be activated this Summer. Special test transmission will be announced on exactly 18 MHz to reach more distant locations especially in America and AUS/NZ. The station can now be reached under > q103@hotmail.com <. According to one source, mobile transmissions were planned from a mobile transmitter from the Dutch enclave of Baarle-Hertog, Baarle-Nassau. If these were planned relays via Radio Borderhunter, it is obvious that this part of the story is over as Borderhunter was raided not too long ago.

▢ Just a few days after FRSNWL #17 was out, we received detailed info from **RADIO RAVENS**. Via the Internet we requested some info and this is what was returned: "Thanks for your Email to Radio Ravens which we've read and will do the best to answer. Radio Ravens is a quite new station, we made our first broadcast on 2nd November 1997 via Radio Pandora on 6260 KHz and received 22 reception reports on that very first transmission from four European countries: Belgium, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Radio Ravens has not got a own transmitter YET... so all of our programmes have been tape recorded and sent to Radio Pandora and we've also made two broadcast to the United States and Canada via the American station WREC on 6850 KHz on 17th January and 25th January. Result was a total of 8 American reception reports. The second European transmission was on the air via Radio Pandora on 8th February 1998 on 6255 KHz and we received 7 reception reports. Radio Ravens is "operated" by two 18 years old Swedish guys using on air the names Igloo Starfighter & Flash Gordon. Programmes contain a variety of old and new music. Sometimes we have different programmes in which we only play Swedish music. All correct reception reports will be responded and verified by our nice QSL, infosheet and our "vimpel" if an IRC or a dollar is

included in the envelope. Receptions can be written in English or in German. Reception reports via Email will be responded by Email. In future we hope we'll get our own transmitter even if it takes some time before we get it. Radio Ravens is here to stay !!!" Address is (10). Email:

> radio_ravens@hotmail.com <. Easter Mon April 13th and Sun April 26th Ravens was heard on 6200, both times via Radio Pandora.

▢ This comes from our SRS News colleagues: The history of **SCANDINAVIAN FREE RADIO** (Free Home Scandinavia) is soon to be finished. The history will be published in a HTML-format and will be copied on a CD together with the programs needed to read it. A lot of QSL-images and Real Audio sound. We are still waiting for some recordings and QSLs to arrive. The CD, including Euro-shipping, will cost DM 15, £ 5.00, SEK60 or 7 IRCs.

▢ The **SHORT WAVE RELAY SERVICE** have been heard with weekly trms on various frequencies including 7475, 7480 AM, 11515, 11525 and 12222. Most broadcasts are aired Sundays 06.00-11.00 UTC and are in the USB mode. Sunday May 31st SWRS was off air but on Friday & Saturday May 29th/30th a new transmitting site was tested. Tests were run between 06.00-14.00 UTC on 13960 kHz USB. During the tests the following stations were regularly heard: Radio Blandengue, CWR, SWRS, Silver, Con Frecuencia & Marabu. Address is (1), Email > swrs@usa.net < and their website is at > http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Station/7568 <.

▢ **SOUTHERN MUSIC RADIO**'s David Miller informs that the station's full history can be found on the website of Kiwi Radio: > www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/9885/smr1.html <.

▢ **RADIO SPARKS** celebrated its 4th birthday with a 60 min. special show via the IRRS on 3985 May 17th. Congrats Stevie! Add is P.O.Box 510, 4010 Basel, Switzerland.

▢ **STAR CLUB RADIO** changed its address to P.O.Box 520112, 44207 Dortmund, Germany. Put SCR on the envelope!

▢ Scandinavian **STARSHINE RADIO** has a new Email address which is > kim.hawk@usa.net <.

▢ **SUNRISE RADIO** from the UK tested on 5850 April 26th. According to info we received via the Internet, this test was carried out via a legal Western European broadcaster (?). Sunrise is not a pirate station but a legal satellite radio station.

▢ German **RADIO Dr. TIM** (1) can be heard quite regularly on 76 & 48 metres. The station celebrated Labour Day with a programme of revolutionary music from the former GDR. A special QSL has been issued for this broadcast. A number of times a Radio Dr. Tim was heard poking fun at Dr. Tim.

▢ **RADIO TITANIC INTERNATIONAL** sent us a press release announcing its return on the European airwaves over the Easter weekend. The RTI programmes were part of the Free Radio Contest run by the SRS News and Pirate Connection. A 60 minute show was aired from 08.00-09.00 UTC on 6275 via the Radio Zodiac tx. As always RTI offers a good-looking QSL and as a special gift an excellent RMS TITANIC illustrated postal card especially printed by the 20th Century Fox + Paramount Pictures for all movie spectators in Germany. Those cards will be stamped with the official RTI seal. Email add: > titanic@srs.pp.se < and > titanicRTI@aol.com < (new). RTI was on 6955 USB April 11th/12th & on 6955 USB April 12th/13th (both via American relays) Finally, in the summer RTI will update its homepage with the 1975-1998 station history. Look for it at > www.lls.se/~jal/fr/titanic <. Unfortunately RTI still cannot run any regular programme schedule in the future due to several circumstances.

▢ **RADIO TITANIC HOLLAND** was noted on 6246 Easter Sun. It was claimed pxs came from the IJsselmeer...

▢ **RADIO TORENVALK** has been heard on several 48 & 76 mb freqs. Remarkable was the station's appearance on the 51 mb on 5812 kHz April 19th. Address is Box 94 in 7038 ZH Zeddam. Mid April RTI was raided on FM!

▢ **TUBESMOKE RADIO** was heard Sun morning June 14th on 3925. WE are however not certain about the correct name, perhaps it is Gunsmoke?? Address is a mystery. Who can help?

▢ Dutch **UNION RADIO** was heard with solid signals on 6239 kHz on the first two June Sundays. There has been some confusion (caused by the station itself) regarding the mailing address. This happens to be POBox 663, 7900 AR Hoozeveen in the Netherlands.



Union Radio has also been noted on 3941 over the Easter weekend and on 5816/5819 April 19th.

☐ **TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** tested a few times on 51 metres. For instance May 10th tests were made on 5820. The station is also active on 48 & 76 metres. Easter Mon the station was logged on 6241 and 6300 kHz. Address is Box 4427, 3006 AK Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

☐ **RADIO VENTURA** was heard on 3925 April 19th using the POBox 21, 7010 AA Gaanderen address. Ventura is just another name used by the Radio Tonair OP!

☐ **VOICE OF SOUTH DUBLIN** sent us some interesting info via the Internet which will be published in #19. Sun April 5th at 08.00 UTC the VOSD was picked up on 6290 kHz. Add is VOSD, 333 Glenview Park, Dublin 24, Ireland. Email: > vosd@usa.net <

☐ The **VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** was noted on 6276 with a strong signal Sun April 5th. A week later VOTN was heard on 6206. Any confusion about the station's current address? Here it is: P.O.Box 663, 7900AR Hoogeveen, Holland.

☐ **RADIO WAVES INT.** (4) continues with irregular broadcasts on 11400 kHz, for instance on Easter Monday.

☐ Scottish **WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO** popped up on the rather unusual 6310 kHz frequency Easter Mon April 13th. Although a 10 kHz "gap" seems to be enough, WMR suffered from Farmers splatter!! April 26th Weekend Music R. was heard testing on 7446 after 11.00 UTC. We are not 100% certain whether WMR can be reached via RFL's new London maildrop.

☐ March 22nd saw British **XTC** on 6400. Unfortunately the signal suffered from heavy QRM making the overall rather poor. April 26th XTC was heard on 6255 with music and letters.

☐ In the previous edition #17 we reported about a new Flemish shortwave pirate station- **X-TREME RADIO** (10) making its debut tm on Sun Febr. 22nd on 5808 via Ozone Radio. Mid April Ozone/ 76 metres Dutch relay. We received a personal letter with quite some info. In one of the coming weeks the station hopes to start trms from Belgian soil. A 40W tx will be run from a mobile site. Meanwhile X-Treme Radio was relayed in South America. May 3rd the station was noted on 5817 via Ozone. Email:

> xtremerradio@freemail.nl < Webpage at:

> <http://members.xoom.com/xtremerradio> <. On this page you will find all information and the logo of X-Treme. Important for all you listeners: only reports by snail mail with an IRC or US\$ 1.00 contribution will be rewarded with a QSL.

☐ We move to South America for some exotic news: Brazilian **RADIO ZAMBA** tested Saturday, April 4th 04.00-04.45 UTC on 5300.2 kHz in USB. Regular trms from Brazilian soil are planned will commence in the near future. OP Luciano Gonzalez can be contacted by Email: > rc@srs.pp.se < (please mention "for RZ" in the subject line).

☐ British **RADIO ZODIAC INT.** (1) was logged on 6275 Easter Sun. The station also relayed German RTI that day. Signal quality was fair.

OFFSHORE RADIO NEWS

Radio Caroline

Dutch version of Radio Caroline

Quite some interesting Caroline news in this Offshore section. In April it was announced Caroline would return via a Dutch cable network. Here's the real story: We first received a message via the Internet from our Dutch Offshore expert and colleague Hans Knot. "The legendary Radio Caroline can be heard very soon in Holland again with an official 8 years licence from the Dutch government. The station will start broadcasting on May 5th, for the first period only on some cablenetworks but the staff is talking to more networks as well as the governmental department responsible for the frequencies in Holland. Hopefully later this year Radio Caroline can be heard in the western parts of Holland on AM with a very good signal. There are two options at the moment for transmitter use. The Haque and surroundings as well North Holland and a part of the province of Zuid Holland are the targets. However, with the power Caroline will use, during daytime the station can be received for a far longer distance. Caroline will not only bring music but also a constant flow of traffic information and news (Rolling traffic and news). Caroline want to be everytime the first with breaking the news

as well as bringing traffic reports. The information will be brought as short as possible between the songs which will be played on the station. Talking about the music format: Caroline will only be playing the best new as well as old songs: Dynamical and swinging. One of the slogans which will be used is 'Music that makes you move'. Caroline will target an audience from 30 up till 50 years and of course the main target for the future are the people on their way to work either to their homes and love-ones. Caroline will bring the Adult Alternative and Quality Classics format. During the evening hours Caroline will give her frequency to an organisation which will transmit programmes from Suriname, Curacao and Aruba and music for the Carabean will be played for all those people who removed from their native country to Holland through the past 4 decades."

The following report came from the UK: Radio Caroline's senior management have denied any knowledge of, or involvement in plans to relaunch the station as a cable-only operation in Holland. The denial came after reports from Holland suggested that a station calling itself Radio Caroline would be launching on May 5th, with a 8 year licence from the Dutch government. Peter Moore, station manager of the former offshore station since 1987 confirmed that neither he nor Caroline founder Ronan O'Rahilly had sanctioned the plans. "This is nothing to do with the official Radio Caroline. We were approached by some people who proposed putting something on the air in Holland as Radio Caroline but no agreement was reached, and at no stage were they given any indication that they could proceed to use the name Radio Caroline on our behalf". Moore and O'Rahilly are "deeply opposed" to people using the name Radio Caroline in order to gain publicity for the launch of their own private projects.

In the mean time the Dutch Caroline commenced broadcasts following a three week delay. Next edition we hope to bring some more news.

Radio Caroline RSL

Radio Caroline is planning another 28 day 1 watt broadcast this summer - licenced by The Radio Authority- covering the area around the Isle Of Sheppy, centred on Sheerness where the former pirate ship is berthed. The broadcast will take place in June starting on the 14th and will be on 1503 AM/ 199 metres.. Meanwhile the station has ended it's long running arrangement with French station Radio 6 whereby some of that station's programmes were transmitted under the Radio Caroline brand.

A usually reliable British source reports that Caroline has been testing from Ireland on 6945 kHz with a 600W tx. This test was carried out in preparation of future SW broadcasts

Caroline via Merlin txs

March 28th saw Radio Caroline via the UK Merlin transmitters (see also News around the World). During this special anniversary broadcast in which Merlin offered Caroline free airtime, Caroline was heard in Australia on 13720 kHz. As a result of this successful celebration the Merlin Network One service was founded starting effectively Wednesday April 8th. Caroline is to be heard total legally on SW via Merlin each Wed evening 18.00-20.00 UTC. The show is hosted by Jonny Reece. The signal is radiated on 15200kHz and by satellite via the Astra on 10.729 GHz /V (CNBC) on the 7,38+7,56 MHz audio subcarriers. So far reports were received from "places" like Japan, South Africa, the Caribbean and Russia. It's weird knowing Caroline is now making use of former BBC SW transmitters, currently Merlin is the BBC World Service's transmission facilities provider. Just over a year ago all transmitting equipment was owned by the BBC.

Volunteer helpers

Radio Caroline has been flooded with calls after placing an advert in the Guardian newspaper recently looking for volunteer helpers. Station manager Peter Moore says that he has been on the phone "almost non-stop" since the advert was published, and is amazed at just how many people are interested in becoming involved with the station. The station never had a problem attracting new blood when it broadcast full time offshore, but since it's arrival on land in the 1990s new recruits have been harder to find. It looks like Peter Moore wants to get rid of some of the current Caroline members. He is considering the idea of approaching Johnny Lewis and Nigel Harris. For information about Radio Caroline, or to offer help, go to their official website: > www.radiocaroline.co.uk <.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Radio London News

Wednesday April 29th Mark Roman- being in charge of Radio London Services- announced that all the money that so far had been collected from investors, would be returned. Following the success of the Radio London Frinton-on-Sea RSL last Summer, Mark together with some friends founded Radio London Services. Their goal was to bring back the station on a permanent and legal basis. We may assume that Mark wasn't any longer prepared to co-operate with EAP's Ray Anderson after many times of colliding with each other. Remarkable is that Mark Roman informed his investors who got their money back, that his plans are not put on ice. He is looking for alternative investors severing off ties with the original group.

In the mean time Ray Anderson said he regrets that Mark is no longer involved with the plans to bring back Big L. However: he added he and some other people are currently preparing a new Radio London RSL this Summer. At the same time Ray is working at the idea of regular high power Big L broadcasts from the continent. In May we heard about serious problems in obtaining a licence for a 3rd Radio London RSL. Reason is that the authorities won't give a permission to tow the Ross Revenge to a mooring off Frinton. It was Ray Anderson's idea to use the Ross and tow her to that position.

Wednesday April 29th saw the start of a Radio London RSL from Harlow, Essex. However, this RSL has no connection at all with the previous Radio London RSLs via EAP in the 1997 Summer and last December. EAP gave permission to this new organisation to use the jingle package as been used during the previous RSLs aboard the Yeoman Rose and the Ocean Defender.

Satellite reception in cars

Next year the introduction of a satellite radio receiving system for cars will take place on a broad scale in the US. Just before the start of the new millennium, in Dec. 1999, car satellite radios will be available. Users must have to pay \$ 9.95 per month receiving about 50 different radio stations. A 2 inch antenna is needed to achieve clear reception!!

Chris Carey jailed for 4 years

Former pirate radio boss Chris Carey was jailed for four years by Kingston Crown Court (2nd April) for his part in an operation which manufactured and sold pirate SKY satellite decoder cards. Carey, best known as the boss of Dublin's legendary Radio Nova in the eighties, is also a former Radio Caroline DJ (Spangles Muldoon) and manager. He helped with the setting up of Radio Free London in 1968 and was the former owner of Buzz FM in the Midlands. His smart-card pirating operation is said to have cost BSkyB 30 million pounds in lost revenue and costs. He was described in court as Europe's leading smartcard pirate. The judge heard that Cary's Megatek company in Dublin was taking 20,000 a day until he and his accomplices were arrested in June 1996 through the undercover efforts of the Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT) and police. Carey, always regarded a something of a rebel, started his career with Radio Caroline in the sixties, as one of the very few people willing to work on board the station after the 1967 Marine Offences Act. When Caroline moved its operations to Holland, Carey was station manager for a period in the early seventies. In 1980 he co-founded Sunshine Radio in Dublin with another ex-Caroline man, Robbie Dale, and then went on to found his own station, Radio Nova, which was the most successful Irish pirate of all time, at it's peak reaching 62% of the Dublin audience. Nova lasted for six years, but closed after a series of disputes with the NUJ. The station is said to have turned over 20 million. More recently he ran a satellite version of Radio Nova from the UK, but this failed to take off, and he was also involved for a short while with the former Midlands station Buzz FM.

18 Famous Radiotunes

Spring of 1997 the first CD of the (Dutch) Society of Radio Jingles & Tunes was published. This was a CD covering the history of Offshore Radio Jingles (Part 1). An excellent CD which was very successful in and outside Europe. March saw the introduction of the second CD produced by the Society: 18 Famous Radiotunes. This happened on the annual Dutch Radio Day in Haarlem, two days later the CD was presented to the Dutch nation in the Radio 2 show of former RNI jock Ferry Maat (who is running his very own jingle production company). On this CD tunes from both Dutch public

radio and offshore stations. The CD is only for sale in record stores containing tracks such as Crunchy Granola Suite (Veronica), Scarlet O'Hara (Veronica's Radio Drama/ Klaas Vaak) Gute Nacht Freunde (Oog op Morgen) and Man of Action /Les Reed. Tunes to be heard on many CDs. But the CD also contains very rare tracks searched by record collectors: Chump Change/Quincy Jones, Dragnet/ Frank Chaksofield, 14 ans les gauloises/ Paul Mauriat, Children of Sanchez/ Chuck Mangione, Hey, look me over/ The New Orleans Syncopaters and Minor Bosanova/Laurie Johnson Orchestra. In particular these tunes make it more than worth while to buy this CD which is distributed by Sony. On the CD also as an extra track a bonus jingle produced by JAM Creative Prod. in Dallas, recorded specially for the The Society of Radio Jingles and Tunes. This jingle is part of the famous PAMS series 27, also known as the "Jet Set".

New Demo CD Top Format Haarlem

May 27th it was released, the brandnew demo CD from Top Format in Haarlem, representative from JAM and Pams but also the biggest Dutch producer of custom made jingles. The CD "Ratings Up" is released for the German market. "Ratings Up" contains 10 audio tracks and one CD-Rom track on which you can read the so-called lyric sheets from the 10 demos. Next to some resung JAM demos and earlier work from Dutch jingle composer Bart van Gogh, you can also listen to the most recent jingles from CHR-station Radio 538, Belgian Radio Donna. Above that, "Kiss my Hit" is a brandnew CHR-package, specially for German radio stations.

AJ Productions

AJ Productions in the UK is launching a collectors CD featuring classic jingles and outtakes material from the UK's legendary "Steve Wright in the Morning" and "Steve Wright in the Afternoon" shows as heard on BBC1 for 10 years.

Steve England back in business

Steve England is back in business. He's still representative of JAM in England and Ireland and working on new "Steve England" produced jingle packages. Steve will be working from his home in Cheshire. Last December Steve decided to voluntarily close down his company Alfa Creative Sound Solutions (formerly known as Alfafound). Its activities stopped Jan. 1st 1998. Alfafound was formed in 1979 by Steve England and Alan Fawkes. Good luck Steve!

New/ Interesting Websites

✉ Anita McCormick who wrote several SW radio-related books and who also produced Allan H. Weiner's "Access to the airwaves-My Fight for Free Radio" has opened up her own website:

> www.angelfire.com/biz/AnitaMcCormick < Her radio books (Access to the Airwaves, Shortwave Radio Listening for Beginners, The Shortwave Listener's Q and A Book) are for sale there.

✉ Updated every few days, a few hundred links to broadcasters, amateur radio, listening resources... including probably all other SW directories such as Pete Costello's Shortwave Radio Catalogue. You'll also find links to magazines. There's also links to SWL club sites: > www.trsc.com/trs_link.html <

✉ For a wide variety of radio news check this one: > www.channel9.demon.co.uk/radiolondon <. Excellent site!

✉ From Hans Knot came the following news: "Together with a colleague I've opened a new site with longer stories related to the pop as well as the radio industry. You can read all kind of articles on the history as well as on today's topics. We've tried as much as possible to make it an interactive site. So next to the stories you'll find a lot of photographs as well as sounds you can listen too. The address is: > www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes <

✉ Martin van de Venne (> vanderVen@t-online.de) from Germany send us the following information: "have a look at the new web site "Israeli Offshore Radio", which has been edited by Mike Brand and me. You will find 6.5 MB of informations, features, news, pictures and press cuttings (a lot of that material has never been published before). You find the link at the top of my homepage "Offshore Radio Links". Have fun with a great new site."

http://members.xoom.com/wireless/	(Offshore Radio Links)
http://medien.freepage.de/offshore/	(Offshore Radio Links)
http://home.t-online.de/home/vanderVen/	(Offshore Radio Links)
http://www.geocities.com/TelevisionCity/3309/	(Sat Communicat.)

New US shortwave station- WBCQ



The FCC has issued call letters for Allan Weiner's new shortwave station-WBCQ. When the station goes on the air in late summer, Allan will be offering discount rates for free radio broadcasters who would like to gain access to the airwaves via WBCQ's 50,000 watt transmitter. For more info, you can E-mail Allan at

> AllanHW@cybertours.com < .

Merlin Communications Anniversary

Merlin Communications International Limited (Merlin) was celebrating its first anniversary on Saturday 28th March with a 24-hour global interactive multimedia festival carried on Short Wave, by Satellite and via the Internet. Merlin was formed on 27 March 1997 following the UK Government's decision to privatise the BBC's transmission network. Merlin was founded to carry out all technical/engineering work connected with BBC activities. With over 65 years experience Merlin delivers a range of broadcast and communications services including distribution by satellite, consultancy and project management services, facilities management and a comprehensive hired transmitter service. Executive Producer, Eric Wiltsher, brought together an impressive schedule, linked with live news on the hour, and played out from facilities provided for Merlin by Country Music Radio. Johnny Walker did a live 3 hour broadcast, there were rarely heard archive radio classics, a MediaZoo special and a two hour special from the LA studios of 70s rock radio legend Emperor Rosko. Caroline's Johnny Reece presented a 4 hour show. Several SW freqs were used including 11680 (NA), 9525 (NA), 5875 (EU), 9780 (EU/NA), 9915 (EU), 13720 (AUS), 11665 (EU/ME), 6130 (EU/ME) and 21550 (AF).

Following the successful on air celebrations, Merlin published a press release on Thursday 2 April 1998: "Merlin Communications International is delighted to announce the Merlin Network One service for International Specialist Broadcasters. Following the highly successful response to Merlin Network One, a service that was produced solely to commemorate the first anniversary of Merlin Communications International Limited, it has been decided that the concept behind the service will be extended for a trial period. Merlin Network One will initially air for eight hours per week to enable a unique mix of specialist programmes to be combined into a single service. Merlin Network One will use the facilities of Country Music Radio, in London, to air the programme strand. Markham Sivak, Business Development Manager, of Merlin Communications International said, "Although we had only planned to air Merlin Network One as a one-off, it soon became apparent that the concept behind the service had huge merit. Listeners from around the world complimented us, by telephone, fax, Email and letter, on the content and urged us to continue with the service. With that in mind we took the original concept of Merlin Network One and just 48 hours after the close of transmission, the long term plans for the service were in place. The Executive Producer of Merlin Network One will be, as it was during our birthday celebrations on March 28, Eric Wiltsher." Eric Wiltsher commented, "We all knew from the beginning that Merlin Network One had to offer something unique to ensure listeners would select a satellite service, in the UK, and shortwave around the world. Therefore, we combined the resources of a number of International Broadcasters and our feelings were rewarded when our audience demanded more. As one listener put it during the anniversary broadcast, "This is the start of a new broadcasting era" and thanks to Merlin Network One the potential of a new 'era in radio' is becoming a reality".

Merlin Network One has an initial line-up of (all times BST):

18.00-20.00 - Radio Caroline presented by Johnny Reece
20.00-22.00 - The Award Winning MediaZoo
22.00-24.00 - Hard Country with CMR's Bryan Chalker
24.00-02.00 - Rock Radio Network

Merlin Network One will air the trial broadcasts every Wednesday, the trial period started April 8th 1998.

Merlin Network One will air via satellite radio, in the UK, and also be beamed to North America and continental Europe on shortwave radio. There are also plans for an Internet service as well. For latest details of shortwave frequencies, satellite channels and Internet audio look at one of the following websites:

> www.merlincommunications.com < or > www.mediazoo.co.uk < or > www.rocknetwork.com < . Address: Merlin Communications International Limited, Bush House, PO Box 76, Strand London, WC2B 4PH, UK.

MADE in HOLLAND

MARCH

While Radio 10 Gold celebrates its 10th Anniversary an even older radio station announces its comeback: From May 5th onwards Radio Caroline will be broadcasting via some Dutch cable networks. However: it isn't a real comeback of the legendary radiostation. The people behind the English offshore station deny any involvement with the Dutch counterpart. Moreover they aren't pleased at all (to say the least) that the station is using the name 'Caroline'. It appears the name Caroline hasn't been registered in Holland, so everybody is free to use it. However, there still is a link between the two stations, because one of the founders of the 'cable Caroline' is Bob Noakes, who worked for the offshore station in the seventies. The Dutch Caroline hopes to get a terrestrial medium wave frequency later this year.

Back to Radio 10 Gold: this station started December 1987 under the name Radio 10. At that time R10 was a real hitradio station. A rather unique construction made it possible to get access to Dutch cable networks. Under the legislation of that time, only foreign commercial radiostations could make use of these networks. So the signal was beamed towards a satellite from Brussels and relayed in Milan on FM. Officially R10 was broadcasting for an Italian Audience (in Dutch...). They couldn't help that it was possible to receive the signal in Holland... In 1990 the station was taken over by the Arcade media group and transformed into an oldies station. The name was changed into Radio 10 Gold. At this moment the station has a 9% marketshare.

APRIL

Commercial radiostations are earning money from broadcasting commercials. I guess you won't be surprised by this statement. However, it's interesting to look at the tariffs for commercials on both commercial and public stations. These prizes are for commercials lasting 20 seconds.

Station	Rates (in Dutch guilders)
SKY Radio	1625,-
Radio 3 FM	1486,-
Regional	1179,-
Radio 10 Gold	1035,-
Radio 538	862,-
Radio 2	766,-
Radio 1	594,-
RNN	542,-
Veronica FM	455,-
Classic FM	160,-
JFK JazzRadio FM	136,-
TalkRadio	100,-
Arrow Classic Rock R.	67,-
Love Radio	78,-
KinkFM	50,-

MAY

Secretary of State Mrs Jorritsma has published 33 FM and 7 AM frequencies which will be distributed among regional and local commercial radiostations. Probably at the end of the year the 'lucky' stations will start transmissions. Autumn 2000 there will be a total re-allocation of terrestrial FM frequencies among public and commercial stations. However: will that be of great importance, bearing in mind that digital radio will have become more or less common at that time...? And moreover: digital radio will cause a total comeback of the good old medium wave. But no crackling sounds anymore: high quality stereo broadcasts will attract the audience towards the medium wave. FM will be oldfashioned in a few years time....

A provisional survey shows, that the public broadcasters will be favoured once again: it's intended they get a double amount of frequencies, compared with the commercial stations.

With a three weeks delay the Dutch Caroline starts broadcasting via the Gouda cable system. A loop tape offers an impression how the station will sound 'in the near future'. Original Caroline jingles are used.

FRS Newsletter #18 sources: Hans Knot/ Freewave, SRS News, Newstide & the Society of Radio Jingles & Tunes.